



## Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

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**DRAFT MINUTES FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD'S LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE  
TO THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS (FSMB)  
Wednesday, August 29, 2007  
9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona**

***Subcommittee Members***

Ram R. Krishna, M.D., Chairman

Dan Eckstrom

Dona Pardo, Ph.D., R.N.

Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D.

Amy J. Schneider, M.D., FACOG

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Subcommittee Members were present: Dr. Krishna, Mr. Eckstrom, Dr. Pardo, and Dr. Schneider. Dr. Petelin was absent.

**CALL TO PUBLIC**

There was no one present for call to public.

**NON-TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS**

**Approval of Minutes**

July 18, 2007 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

**MOTION: Dr. Krishna moved to approve the July 18, 2007 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.**

**SECONDED: Mr. Eckstrom**

**VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Discussion of License Portability and Multi-State Practice Issues**

Timothy C. Miller, J.D., Executive Director, led the discussion regarding license portability and multi-state practice issues. Mr. Miller reported the Governor's Office is concerned with the need for constant verification and re-verification of physician credentials. This is an area that affects states nationwide and is a barrier and a hindrance for multi-state practices because it prohibits physicians from practicing across state lines. Mr. Miller referred to his memo regarding Licensing Portability and Interstate Practice of Medicine issues and stated Arizona has three significant built-in structural limitations on multi-state practices. First, the statute allows the Arizona Medical Board to endorse the license exam administered by other states or other jurisdictions and also allows endorsement for physicians who have not taken the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) within the past ten years. Mr. Miller stated the Board uses the same application for licensure by endorsement as the application for initial licensure. Dr. Krishna stated the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is working on trying to develop nationwide uniformity for licensure requirements so that reciprocity will be easier. Dr. Krishna stated there are several issues regarding portability of licenses and which licensing entity would retain regulatory authority including the ability to collect licensing fees.

Suzann Grabe, Licensing Manager, reported that the requirement to take the SPEX examination, if a physician has not taken the examination within the past 10 years, is no longer required for licensure by endorsement. Ms. Grabe stated that several applicants had withdrawn their applications because they were not comfortable taking the examination due to their

scope of practice. Mr. Miller stated that when the rule was reviewed it applied to a statute that no longer existed since the Legislature deleted the section that the rule referred to; therefore, the rule was orphaned. The revised statute now states the Board may require an exam if it has been over ten years, but does not require it. Mr. Miller stated the FSMB's approach to portability is to develop a common licensing application to try to make uniform the licensure requirements of all the states. This will make it easier to obtain multi-state licenses; however, the physician would still retain separate licenses in each state and would still pay the individual licensing fees. Mr. Miller stated other options would allow the physician to choose which state is the initial licensing state and then other states would allow the physician to practice in their state, but would not have regulatory jurisdiction over the physician. Mr. Miller stated one goal is to implement the online common licensing application form. States currently utilizing this form must use the Federation Credentialing Verification Service (FCVS). Currently there is discussion regarding separating this process so physicians can complete the application form online without being required to use the FCVS. This would allow individual boards the ability to perform the credentialing process themselves.

Dr. Krishna addressed the benefits of a uniform application throughout the western states and asked if the requirements for a common application would be the same. Mr. Miller stated the FSMB is currently taking a regional approach to several issues right now. Mr. Miller stated he will be attending a FSMB meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the issues of common licenses, competency and telemedicine. He will recommend a Board Member be appointed to serve on the FSMB committee addressing Western Regional issues.

Dr. Krishna stated one issue that was addressed at the Federation Conference was the competency of physicians. Mr. Miller stated competency will be another issue for the Liaison Subcommittee to address. Mr. Miller stated the second multi-state practice barrier is Arizona's prohibition of out of state consultations as Arizona only allows out of state consultations on an infrequent basis. He stated other states are beginning to issue out of state licenses. These licenses are not full licenses and the physician is not allowed to practice in the state; however, the physician can consult with an in-state physician regarding patients on a routine basis. In addition, the approval process and fees collected for a consulting license would not be the same as a full license.

Mr. Miller stated the FSMB will also be addressing telemedicine and this is the third barrier to multi-state practice. Physicians currently can not practice within Arizona's telemedicine network if they do not hold a full Arizona license to practice medicine. Mr. Miller stated this is different than consultations because sometimes the telemedicine practitioner practices directly with the patient. Telemedicine is a more direct physician-to-patient care model than consultation, so a telemedicine license would allow a more expanded form of practice in Arizona by out of state physicians. The FSMB is working on common definitions because states currently have different definitions regarding telemedicine.

Mr. Miller recommended the Subcommittee meet again after his return from the FSMB meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.



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Timothy C. Miller, J.D., Executive Director